

12

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21 Application number: 88300293.3

61 Int. Cl.⁴: **H 02 G 3/26**
F 16 L 3/08

22 Date of filing: 14.01.88

30 Priority: 30.01.87 GB 8702148

43 Date of publication of application:
 03.08.88 Bulletin 88/31

64 Designated Contracting States:
 BE DE ES FR IT NL SE

71 Applicant: TRW United-Carr Ltd.
 Buckingham Road
 Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP19 3QA (GB)

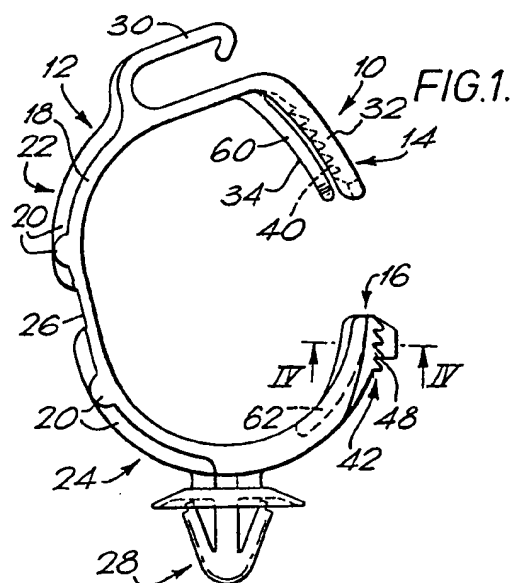
72 Inventor: Neil, Gary Alan
 1, Lime Tree Walk
 Amersham Buckinghamshire 9HY (GB)

Ferguson, Edward Harry Frederick
 126, Broughton Avenue
 Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP20 1QB (GB)

74 Representative: Abble, Andrew Kenneth et al
 R.G.C. Jenkins & Co. 26 Caxton Street
 London SW1H 0RJ (GB)

54 Clips.

57 A clip 10 for an electrical wiring harness of a vehicle comprises a gapped annular body 12, the end portions of which are adapted to interengage in overlapped relationship to close the body. The end portions are provided with abutment means 48, 50; 52, 56 and 58, 60 which prevent transverse relative movement of the end portions when they are so interengaged. In this way the risk of disengagement of the end portions is avoided.



Description

CLIPS

This invention relates to clips, and more particularly to clips for clipping together a plurality of elongate members or clipping at least one such member to a surface.

Such clips comprising a gapped annular body, the end portions of which are adapted to interengage to close the body are known. For example, US Patent Specification 3913187 discloses such a clip wherein the end portions are interengageable over a range of degrees of overlapped relationship to enable the body to tightly grip the elongate member or members disposed within the body.

A disadvantage with such clips is that the end portions may become transversely misaligned either during fitting or in service such that they do not interengage properly with a resultant risk that the clip body may inadvertently open.

According to the present invention there is provided a clip comprising a gapped annular body, the end portions of which are adapted to interengage in overlapped relationship to close the body, said end portions being provided with abutment means for preventing transverse relative movement of the end portions when they are so interengaged.

One of the end portions may be bifurcated such that the forks thereof overlap the other end portion inwardly and outwardly thereof when said end portions are interengaged, and in one embodiment of the invention, to be described hereinafter, said forks comprise first and second transverse portions of said one end portion, said first transverse portion being arranged to overlap a first transverse portion of the other end portion and the second transverse portion being arranged to be overlapped by a second transverse portion of the other end portion when said end portions are interengaged.

In such an arrangement, the clip may comprise first abutment means on said other end portion for engaging first abutment means on said first transverse portion of said one end portion for preventing transverse movement of said first transverse portion of said one end portion across the second transverse portion of said other end portion and second abutment means on said other end portion for engaging second abutment means on said second transverse portion of said one end portion for preventing transverse movement of said second transverse portion of said one end portion across the first transverse portion of said other end portion.

Advantageously, the first transverse portions of said end portions are provided with cooperable ramp teeth for interengaging said end portions over a range of degrees of overlapped relationship.

The ramp teeth may be spaced from the side edges of said first transverse portions remote from the second transverse portions, and said first abutment means on said other end portion may comprise ends of the ramp teeth thereon.

Additionally or alternatively, the first abutment means on said other end portion may comprise a side face of a projection on said other end portion,

said first abutment means of said first transverse portion of said one end portion comprising a side edge thereof.

In such a case, preferably, the first portion of said one end portion has a chamfered free end, with which said projection is cooperable for guiding said first transverse portion of said one end portion into overlapping relationship with said first transverse portion of said other end portion.

The second abutment means on said other end portion may comprise a side face thereon, said second abutment means of said second transverse portion of said one end portion comprising a side edge thereof. This side face may comprise a side face of a recess in the other end portion for receiving the second transverse portion of said one end portion. Further, the second transverse portion of said one end portion may have a chamfered free end, with which said side face of said other end portion is cooperable for guiding said second transverse portion of said one end portion into overlapping relationship with said second transverse portion of said other end portion.

Advantageously, the gapped annular body of the clip may comprise an integral thermoplastics moulding. The integral body may comprise two body portions hinged together, and a mounting member may extend from one of the body portions and a hook member may be provided on the other of the body portions.

The invention also includes a clip comprising a gapped annular body, the end portions of which are adapted to interengage in overlapped relationship to close the body, wherein one of said end portions is bifurcated such that a first transverse portion is arranged to overlap a first transverse portion of the other end portion and a second transverse portion is arranged to be overlapped by a second transverse portion of the other end portion when said end portions are interengaged.

In order that the invention may be well understood, an embodiment thereof, which is given by way of example only, will now be described, reference being made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side view of a clip for an electrical wiring harness of a vehicle comprising a gapped annular body, the end portions of which are adapted to interengage to close the body;

Figure 2 is a front view of the clip;

Figure 3 is a plan view of the clip; and

Figure 4 is a cross-section through the two end portions when they are interengaged to close the body, the cross-section being taken along a line corresponding to line IV-IV in Figure 1 and to a larger scale than Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings, there is shown, a clip 10 for an electrical wiring harness of a vehicle, which clip is moulded integrally from a thermoplastics material such as acetal. The clip comprises a gapped annular body 12, the end portions 14 and 16 of which

are adapted to interengage to close the body. Figure 1 illustrates the body in an open condition and the interengagement of the end portions is illustrated in Figure 4 which will be described in more detail hereinafter. The body is moulded in the illustrated open condition both to facilitate moulding and to ease assembly of the harness into the clip. The resilience of the body permits the end portions to be brought into interengagement from the open condition, and in the illustrated embodiment this is assisted by forming the body of a wall 18 which is reinforced with external ribbing 20 over two portions 22,24 of the body which portions are interconnected by an unreinforced section 26 of the wall 18 which serves as a hinge between the two body portions 22,24. Additionally the section 26 of the wall 18 could be reduced in thickness.

A mounting member 28 extends from the body portion 24 to enable the clip to be snap-fitted into an aperture in a vehicle panel in a manner known per se. A hook member 30 is provided on the body portion 22 so that the clip may retain one or more other elongate members in addition to the electrical wiring harness.

The end portions 14,16 of the body are adapted to interengage in overlapped relationship. To this end, in the embodiment, one of the end portions 14 is bifurcated such that the forks 32,34 thereof overlap the other end portion 16 inwardly and outwardly thereof when the end portions are interengaged. As best shown in Figure 4, the forks 32,34 comprise first and second transverse portions of the end portion 14, the first transverse portion 32 being arranged to overlap a first transverse portion 36 of the end portion 16 and the second transverse portion 34 being arranged to be overlapped by a second transverse portion 38 of the end portion when the end portions are interengaged.

The end portions 14 and 16 are provided with abutment means for preventing transverse relative movement of the end portions when they are interengaged in overlapped relationship. Broadly stated, in the embodiment these abutment means comprise first abutment means on end portion 16 for engaging first abutment means on the transverse portion 32 of end portion 14 for preventing transverse movement of portion 32 across transverse portion 34 of end portion 14, and second abutment means on end portion 16 for engaging second abutment means on the transverse portion 34 of end portion 14 for preventing transverse movement of portion 34 across portion 32.

In the embodiment, where the transverse portions 32,36 of the end portions are provided with cooperable ramp teeth 40,42 for interengaging the end portions over a range of overlapped relationships and the ramp teeth are spaced from the side edges 44,46 of the portions 32,36 remote from the portions 34,38, the first abutment means on the end portion 16 referred to above comprises the ends 48 of the ramp teeth thereon, which abut against a wall 50 on the portion 32 adjacent the corresponding ends of the ramp teeth 40 thereon. Alternatively or, as illustrated, additionally, the first abutment means on the end portion 16 comprises a side face 52 of a

projection 54 thereon arranged for engaging a side edge 56 of the portion 32 of end portion 14. As illustrated where both such arrangements are provided, whilst the teeth ends 48 and 50 are in abutting relationship, the side face 52 and side edge 56 are slightly spaced apart to facilitate interengagement of the end portions and to allow for manufacturing tolerances. However, it will be appreciated that the side face 52 would be engaged by the side edge 56 of portion 14 to prevent the portion 14 moving across portion 38 if the abutment between teeth ends 48 and wall 50 is lost.

In the embodiment, the second abutment means on the end portion 16 referred to above comprises a side face 58 thereon which abuts against a side edge 60 of the transverse portion 34 of end portion 14. This side face 58 comprises a side face of a recess 62 in the end portion 16 for receiving the portion 34 of end portion 14.

The free end of transverse end portion 32 of end portion 14 is chamfered as shown at 63 to cooperate with the projection 54 when the end portions 14,16 are being interengaged such that the projection can guide the portion 32 into overlapping relationship with the transverse portion 36 of end portion 16. Similarly, the free end of transverse end portion 34 is chamfered as shown at 64 to cooperate with side face 58 when the end portions 14,16 are being interengaged such that the side face 58 can guide the portion 34 into overlapping relationship with the transverse end portion of end portion 16. In this way, closure of the body is greatly facilitated since proper alignment of the end portions in their overlapping relationship is ensured. This is particularly useful where the body has to be closed blind - i.e. where the fitter cannot see the clip - since the body has to be closed with some force to achieve a degree of overlapping relationship of the two end portions which will result in the wiring harness being tightly gripped by the closed body.

It will be appreciated that both during closure of the body and subsequently in service transverse misalignment of the end portions 14,16 and the consequent risk of their disengagement is prevented by the provision of the cooperable abutment means 48,50; 52,56 and 58,60 described above.

Claims

1. A clip comprising a gapped annular body, the end portions of which are adapted to interengage in overlapped relationship to close the body, said end portions being provided with abutment means for preventing transverse relative movement of the end portions when they are so interengaged.

2. A clip as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said end portions is bifurcated such that the forks thereof overlap the other end portion inwardly and outwardly thereof when said end portions are interengaged.

3. A clip as claimed in claim 2, wherein said

forks comprise first and second transverse portions of said one end portion, said first transverse portion being arranged to overlap a first transverse portion of the other end portion and the second transverse portion being arranged to be overlapped by a second transverse portion of the other end portion when said end portions are interengaged.

4. A clip is claimed in claim 3, comprising first abutment means on said other end portion for engaging first abutment means on said first transverse portion of said one end portion for preventing transverse movement of said first transverse portion of said one end portion across the second transverse portion of said other end portion and second abutment means on said other end portion for engaging second abutment means on said second transverse portion of said one end portion for preventing transverse movement of said second transverse portion of said one end portion cross the first transverse portion of said other end portion.

5. A clip as claimed in claim 4, wherein said first transverse portions of said end portions are provided with cooperable ramp teeth for interengaging said end portions over a range of degrees of overlapped relationship.

6. A clip as claimed in claim 5, wherein said ramp teeth are spaced from the side edges of said first transverse portions remote from the second transverse portions, and said first abutment means on said other end portion comprises ends of the ramp teeth thereon.

7. A clip as claimed in claim 4, 5 or 6, wherein said first abutment means on said other end portion comprises a side face of a projection on said other end portion, said first abutment means of said first transverse portion of said one end portion comprising a side edge thereof.

8. A clip as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first transverse portion of said one end portion has a chamfered free end, with which said projection is cooperable for guiding said first transverse portion of said one end portion into overlapping relationship with said first transverse portion of said other end portion.

9. A clip as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 8, wherein said second abutment means on said other end portion comprises a side face thereon, said second abutment means of said second transverse portion of said one end portion comprising a side edge thereof.

10. A clip as claimed in claim 9, wherein said side face on said other end portion comprises a side face of a recess therein for receiving the second transverse portion of said one end portion.

11. A clip as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein said second transverse portion of said one end portion has a chamfered free end, with which said side face of said other end portion is cooperable for guiding said second transverse portion of said one end portion into overlapping

relationship with said second transverse portion of said other end portion.

12. A clip as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said gapped annular body comprises an integral thermoplastics moulding.

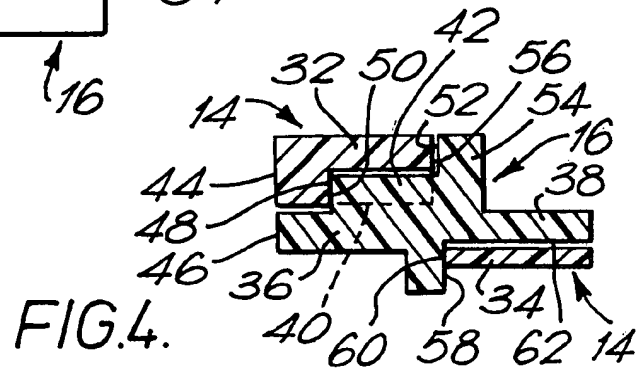
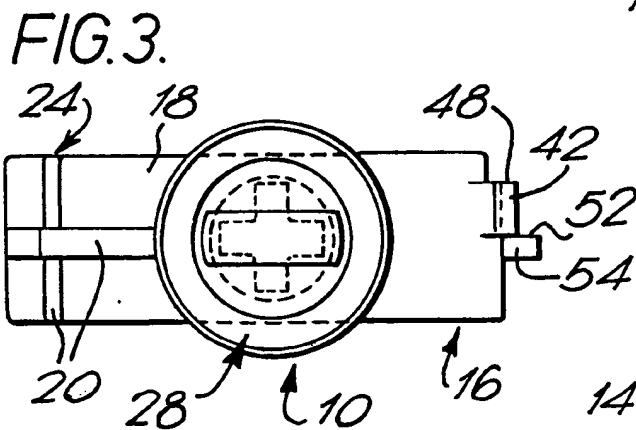
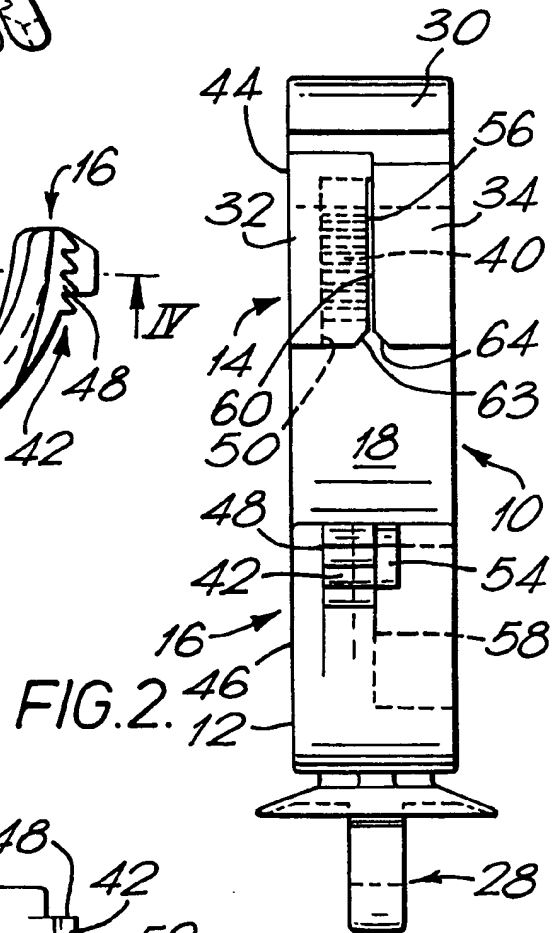
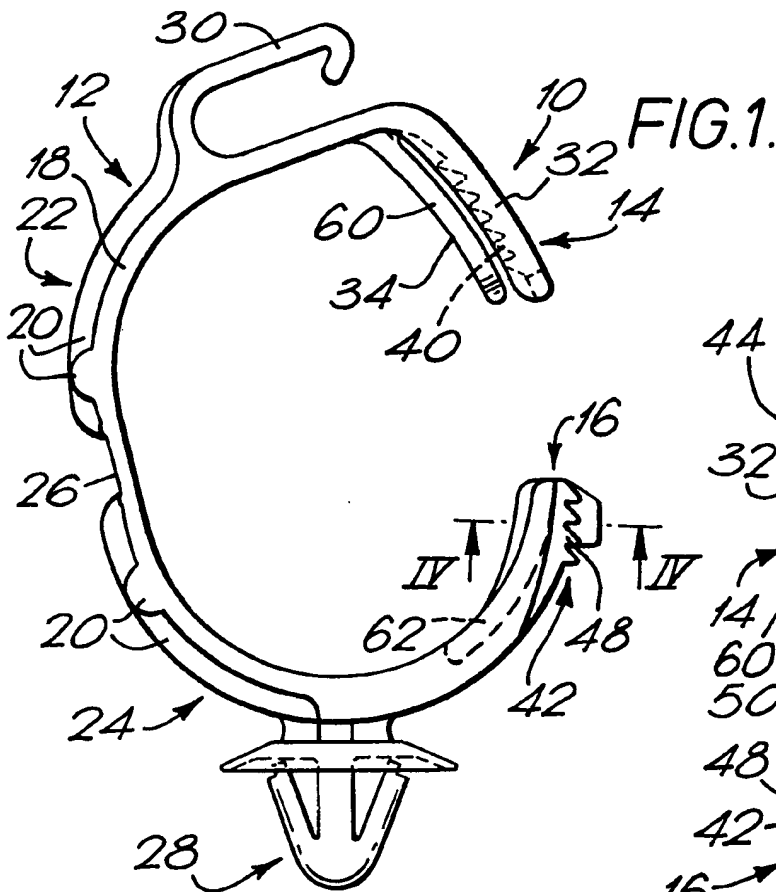
13. A clip as claimed in claim 12, wherein said body comprises two body portions hinged together.

14. A clip as claimed in claim 13, wherein a mounting member extends from one of said body portions.

15. A clip as claimed in claim 14, wherein a hook member is provided on the other of said body portions.

16. A clip comprising a gapped annular body, the end portions of which are adapted to interengage in overlapped relationship to close the body, wherein one of said end portions is bifurcated such that a first transverse portion is arranged to overlap a first transverse portion of the other end portion and a second transverse portion is arranged to be overlapped by a second transverse portion of the other end portion when said end portions are interengaged.

180088





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 88300293.3
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
A	DE - A1 - 2 442 414 (TUREK) * Claims 6,12,14; fig. 1,3 * --	1-16	H 02 G 3/26 F 16 L 3/08
A	DE - A1 - 3 544 683 (KITAGAWA) * Fig. 1,2 * --	1-3	
A	US - A - 4 061 299 (KUROSAKI) * Abstract; fig. 1 * --	1-3	
A	US - A - 3 942 750 (NOODRILY) * Claim 1; fig. 1 * --	1-5	
A	US - A - 4 557 024 (ROBERTS) * Totality * --	1-3, 5, 16	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
A	DE - A1 - 3 139 058 (BLOUNTHURST) --		H 02 G 3/00 F 16 L 3/00 F 16 L 33/00
A	US - A - 4 609 171 (MATSUI) -----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 12-04-1988	Examiner SCHMIDT
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	